

Serial No.: 10/726,891

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending herein.

Applicants thank the Examiner and his supervisor for the courteous personal interview of December 12, 2005 to discuss the instant application. Applicants also thank the Examiner for acknowledgment of Applicants' claim of priority, and the indication of allowable subject matter in Applicants' claims 3, 5, and 9.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dang in view of Swoboda et al. ("Swoboda").

Applicants' claim 1 recites a control/communication card connected to a device measuring unit for sending analyzed results back to a general-purpose computer. The Office Action rationale states that the Dang patent discloses a device measuring unit that sends analyzed results back to a general-purpose computer. But as the Examiners agreed at the personal interview, the Dang patent does not teach or suggest this feature.

The Office Action rationale states that the Dang tester mainframe 200 corresponds to the claimed device measuring unit, the Dang test controller 201 corresponds to the claimed communication card, and the Dang CPU 301 corresponds to the claimed general-purpose computer. However, Dang states that CPU 301 is part of test controller 201. (Dang col. 5, line 54.) The operation of test controller 201 is set forth in detail at Dang col. 4, ln. 19 - col. 5 ln. 32. All of the disclosed information flow is unidirectional, *i.e.*, signals are being sent from the test controller 201 to the tester mainframe 200. There is no disclosure of any signals being sent from

Serial No.: 10/726,891

the tester mainframe 200 back to the testing controller 201, let alone that analyzed results are being sent back as recited in Applicants' claim 1. This unidirectional flow of information is consistent with Dang Fig. 1, which shows a one-way arrow from the testing controller 201 to the testing mainframe 200.

The Examiner's supervisor pointed out that in Dang Fig. 3, a bidirectional arrow shows that the CPU 301 (which is inside test controller 201) is in two-way communication with compensation unit 202 (which is inside tester mainframe 200). Yet this only shows the possibility for bi-directional communication in Dang, but does not teach or suggest that the tester mainframe 200 is sending any specific information to the CPU 301. Even assuming that two-way communication is present, Dang does not teach or suggest what information is being sent back to CPU 301, let alone the analyzed results as recited in Applicants' claim 1. This was the point of agreement at the personal interview.

Applicants also discussed at the personal interview whether the Dang CPU 301 is a general-purpose computer as recited in Applicants' claim 1. CPU 301 is part of testing controller 201, which itself has very specific functions as set forth generally in column 4 of Dang. There is no teaching or suggestion that testing controller 201 and/or CPU 301 have any other functionality. CPU 301 is thus a specific-purpose computer, not a general-purpose computer as recited in Applicants' claim 1.

Swoboda fails to supply that which is lacking from Dang. Swoboda was cited for its alleged teaching of a board separating a test head. Such teachings do not relate to general-

Serial No.: 10/726,891

purpose computers and/or the exchange of analyzed results, and therefore do not teach or suggest any modification to Dang that would provide the same.

Accordingly, Applicants' claim 1 recites a combination of features which is neither taught nor suggested by Dang or Swoboda, taken individually or collectively. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and allowance of the same are therefore requested.

Claims 2, 4, 6-8 and 10, which depend from claim 1 (either directly or through intervening claims), were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dang in view of Swoboda. In view of at least the remarks with respect to claim 1, these dependent claims are likewise patentably distinct over the applied prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims and allowance of the same are respectfully requested.

Claim 11 has been added to further define that which Applicants regard as their invention. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, the application is now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Any amendments to the claims not specifically argued to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art have been made for clarity, a purpose unrelated to patentability.

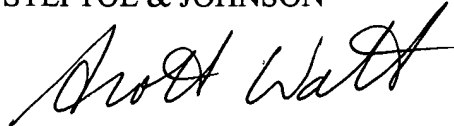
If a telephone conference would be of value, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Serial No.: 10/726,891

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28951.5300).

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Watkins", is written over the printed name.

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